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Washington storm over role in Chile

CIA covert intervention charged in secret testimony of Colby

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Washington

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger is in the middle of a storm blowing in the capital over covert intervention by the Central Intelligence Agency in the political life of Chile, apparently to prevent the election of former President Salvador Allende Gassens and to cause his overthrow.

Members of Congress — notably Sen. Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, and Rep. Michael J. Harrington, Democrat of Massachusetts — are angry because a long succession of State Department officials including Dr. Kissinger has assured them that the United States was not intervening in the internal affairs of Chile.

Secret testimony by CIA director William E. Colby before the subcommittee on intelligence of the House Armed Service Committee indicating quite the contrary has been leaked by Mr. Harrington in the form of a letter protesting the CIA activities to Thomas E. Morgan, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Testimony reported

Mr. Colby, according to Representative Harrington, testified that the so-called "40 Committee" headed by Secretary Kissinger authorized the CIA between 1970 and September, 1973, when President Allende was overthrown and killed, to spend more than \$8 million on covert activities in Chile.

"As recently as Aug. 20 of last year," Mr. Harrington said indignantly in a telephone interview, "the Committee of 40 approved another million dollars to be spent bribing political figures. And it was only called off after Allende was overthrown." In Mr. Harrington's view the United States had "no business" intervening in the political affairs of this or any other duly elected government.

Now comes a fresh report in the New York Times, citing "well-informed government sources" who allege that Dr. Kissinger directed a Nixon administration program to cut back economic aid and credits at a series of weekly meetings between various agencies which he headed. The report fuels the growing concern on Capitol Hill. There was no immediate comment from the Secretary.

In an appearance before a conference on CIA activities organized by the Center for National Security Stud-

ies, a private organization, CIA director Colby late last week made the central point in the CIA's defense of its record in Chile: that the CIA had not had any part in the actual overthrow of President Allende. But he declined to talk about other CIA activities intended to influence Chilean politics.

Imperturbable in the face of shouts demanding to know "how many people have you killed" and other provocations, Mr. Colby was stirred to heat only by an allegation made by Daniel Ellsberg that he did not understand the Constitution and did not support it. "I understand it," Mr. Colby replied, "as well as you do."

The 48-page testimony by Mr. Colby indicated that funds were used to influence individuals, political parties, and the media, including \$5 million for "destabilization activities" after Mr. Allende's election and \$1.5 million to help anti-Allende candidates in municipal elections last year.

Questions raised

The questions raised by these statements are of great personal significance to Dr. Kissinger, who has recently emerged from a searing but inconclusive investigation into his role during the Nixon administration in authorizing wiretapping of public officials and members of the press.

Dr. Kissinger is chairman of the 40 Committee on which also sit the director of central intelligence, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the undersecretary of state for political affairs. In the words of one high official the committee, which acts in effect as a subcommittee of the National Security Council, is "all Kissinger."

In addition to the Secretary, a number of high-ranking State Department officers who denied that the United States was intervening in Chile also are implicated.

Those who testified and denied U.S. Government interference in Chile included Charles A. Meyer, former assistant secretary of state for Latin American affairs, and Edward M. Korry, a former ambassador to Chile.

Senator Church put the issue bluntly on Wednesday: "Apart from the question whether perjury was committed in a legal sense," he asserted, "there's no question but what the committee was given to believe that our policy was one of nonintervention."

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee headed by Sen. J. William Fulbright responded to the hubbub by calling a full-committee hearing in closed session on the subject for Tuesday, Sept. 17.